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CLASSIFICATION		25X1
COUNTRY	Soviet Zone of Germany	25X1 REPORT
TOPIC	Soviet Troop Movements in the WITTENBERGE Area	
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	25X1	
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED 10 November 1949
REFERENCES		
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS	<p style="text-align: center;">RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY</p>	

25X1 21 to 23 September 1949

25X1 1. Large-scale movements of troops, mostly by motor vehicle and train from the south towards PERLEBERG (M 54/T 70) at night, were observed in the WITTENBERGE area.

The following railroad shipping activities were seen:

21 September 1949

a. 80 very young recruits (presumably of the 1928 class), accompanied by some artillery sergeants, alighted from four boxcars in PERLEBERG.

23 September 1949

b. A northbound freight train carrying six canvas-covered tanks and about 25 escorting tank troopers passed through WITTENBERG. The trains came from the direction of STENDAL (M 53/Y 85).

c. Several empty trains, each with 40 to 45, 15 and 35-ton flatcars, coming from the north, passed through WITTENBERG and continued towards STENDAL. More empty flatcars, in groups of 15 to 25, were included in transient freight trains.

29 September 1949 to 2 October 1949

2. The following north-south troop movements were observed:

29 September 1949

a. A train carrying 15 canvas-covered tanks and 2 trucks (at 9:20 p.m.);

29 September 1949

b. A train carrying 10 trucks and 4 guns of about 100 mm

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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Date: 25 MAY 1978 By

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Next Review Date: 2008

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caliber (at 11 p.m.);

30 September 1949

c. A train carrying 17 canvas-covered tanks, 2 trucks and 1 passenger car (at 6:15 a.m.)

30 September 1949

d. Many open and closed trucks, command cars, tank trucks and ambulances occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, black and light-red epaulets passed through WITTENBERGE, heading south. The troops had small arms, machine guns and baggage with them.

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1 October 1949

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e. About 60 to 80 motor vehicles

were observed

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Three passenger cars occupied by high-ranking officers, also passed through WITTENBERGE heading south. The cars were followed by truck which carried four large red flags and a picture of STALIN.

2 October 1949

f. A convoy of four amphibian cars passed through the town at about 10:30 a.m.

g. One train of 28 railroad cars carrying pontoons, engineer equipment and two trucks passed through the town at about 7 p.m.

3 and 4 October 1949

3. No troop movements were observed except for a few motor vehicles

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28 September to 3 October 1949

4. The WITTENBERGE Elbe River bridge was guarded by a 5-man German police detail.

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Comment:

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Large-scale maneuvers of Soviet tank, artillery, motorized infantry and engineer units were held in the LAUELBERG (L 53/Y 97) area on 3 October 1949. The involved units were said to consist of trained personnel and very young soldiers at a 50:50 ratio. The troops wore white bands around their caps; the motor vehicles had little white flags.

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The maneuvers were said to simulate "the disengagement from the enemy". Special efforts was made to take advantage of all possibilities of camouflage, also with regard to heavy weapons. The truck [] was repeatedly seen.

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[] Comment :

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The report indicates that large-scale maneuvers, at least at division level, were conducted in the area south of southeast of WITTENBERG (HAVELBERG area or northern edge of Letzling Heath ?) in early October 1949. Most of the observed moto vehicle [] of the 94th G.s Mtz Rifle Div. High-ranking officers of the staffs of both the Hq of the Third Shock Army and the Group of Occupation Forces Germany were seen with the maneuver forces. The maneuvers are assumed to have been the final field exercises of the 94th G.s Mtz Rifle Div and other units.

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